

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The Specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for claim 5, which was not rejected for new matter apparently because the symmetrical shape of the grip part 7 is clearly illustrated in FIG. 1.

Entry of this amendment after final action is in order because it:

1. Introduces no new issues.
2. Eliminates formal problems, namely issues of nonsupport for language in claim 1 that has been corrected ("grip part" for handle) or inserted into the Specification.
3. Reduces the number of claims.

The instant invention is aimed at an apparatus for drawing blood from, for example, a neonate. To this end the fine cannula 3 is held in one end of a C-shaped holder 2 so that a sharpened tip 4 of the cannula 3 can be inserted into a vein and a vessel can be held under the opposite end 5 that lies inside the arc of the holder 2. A grip part 7 allows the device to be

aimed and centered, and also rotated so that the holder 2 is above the catchment vessel.

US 4,976,271 of Blair relates to a device that is differently constructed and is used differently. More particularly in the FIG. 8 embodiment referred to by the examiner a cartridge 3 or the like is inserted in a holder 11, but without a grip end axially aligned with the needle 1. Thus the inner end of the needle 1 is basically exposed, and the device could not be manipulated like the instant invention by a hand gripping the part 7 aligned with the needle. Instead the rear end 95 is a short protuberance that serves mainly to hold the cartridge 3 in place.

instead this invention has the "bow-shaped" part that claim 3 goes on to describe as being C-shaped and that provides significant space for draining the rear needle end. Of course this is not needed in Blair where the goal is to fit the cartridge 3 to the needle 1.

Going further, there is nothing resembling the claim 5 feature that the axially aligned grip part also has an axially symmetrical outer surface. This makes it very easy for the user to aim and direct the pointed needle end, and to subsequently orient the bow-shaped bridge element out of the way so that the blood dripping from the rear needle end can be caught. The instant invention as defined in the claims is clearly allowable

over Blair under §102 and §103. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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18 March 2011  
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